

## THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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Winston, N. C.

Winston, N. C., March 31, 1886.

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As an inducement to clubs we will send a club of six for one year to any postoffice for ten dollars, or to any one sending us a club of five, with ten dollars, we will send one copy one year free.

We send out weekly a large number of specimen copies of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER. Will our friends receiving these papers do us the kindness to hand them to a neighbor after reading, and thus aid us in the circulation of our paper? This is a farmer's journal, intended for them, and with their co-operation and assistance we can make it a power for their good.

Whenever farmers in the State desire to organize Farmers' Clubs, THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER will take pleasure in giving any information it can, in aiding them in every way it can, and will mail, on application, forms of constitution and by-laws for the government of clubs, thus saving the club the trouble of drafting the same.

Will our State exchanges do us the favor to call attention to the suggestions of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER in the matter of organizing Farmers' Clubs, and co-operate with us in hastening the good work? We will mail forms of constitution and by-laws for such clubs to any farmer in the State asking for them.

The Missouri Pacific Railroad, of which Jay Gould is the ruling spirit, employs 14,319 men.

Subscriptions are now being taken up in Georgia to erect a monument over the grave of Alexander H. Stephens.

Congressman Mills, of Texas, is said to be the fastest talker in Congress. He talks at the rate of 215 words to the minute.

Governor Stoneman, of California, has appointed Hon. George Hearst, United States Senator in place of John F. Miller, deceased.

The local option question is agitating the city of Richmond, Va. In one day last week a petition praying the Judge to order an election, received 5,000 signatures.

The Goldsboro Argus informs us that a "Young Farmers' Club" was organized last week at Woodland, which was to be followed by the organization of a county club at Goldsboro. Let the good work go on.

We publish another article this week on the subject of tobacco culture and shall follow up through the season. These articles are of considerable value to the tobacco raisers, especially to beginners.

The American Agriculturist says there are 2,000 varieties of apples recorded and described, but those who have made the apple a study say that a hundred varieties, and perhaps as low as sixty are all that are really desirable for all seasons and all parts of the country.

The PROGRESSIVE FARMER will be glad to be furnished with the proceedings of Farmers' Clubs throughout the State and will publish with pleasure. Let the Secretaries make a note of this and forward such matter as the Club would like to have published for the benefit of their brother farmers.

## FARMERS' CLUBS.

We note the fact and construe it as a good sign, that several agricultural clubs have been formed in different portions of the State recently, and others are being formed. These clubs if properly conducted will prove of vast benefit to those who belong to them and the cause they represent as well as to the communities in which they exist, in numerous ways.

This is a day of organization, of co-operation. There is no business, no industry, that has not its organizations, its co-operative, its representative bodies, who look after the interests they represent and shape policies to govern them.

The men who own and operate railroads and steamboats, have their organizations and meet at stated periods to discuss the business situation and arrange schedules of rates for carrying freight and passengers to avoid ruinous competition and promote their mutual prosperity.

Bankers have their societies which meet annually, or oftener if occasion requires, to review the situation and discuss matters relating to their business.

Merchants have their boards of trade to look after their interests.

The manufacturers of iron, steel, cotton, wool, &c., have their associations to look after their interests.

The mechanics and laboring men who, with the farmer, literally "earn their bread in the sweat of their faces" have their organizations that they may act in concert when occasion requires. To-day the Knights of Labor are wielding a mighty power, such as no organization of workers ever wielded before in this or any other country. At the present rate of increase the day is not far distant when they will number a million of men, under perfect discipline, governed, directed and controlled by heads of their own choosing.

The farmers of the United States number nearly 8,000,000, about double the number of men engaged in all the other pursuits, and yet, strange to say, these farmers who are the producers of the country's wealth, who raise the bread and meat, the cotton and wool, to feed and clothe all the others, are the only men who are without organizations to foster their own welfare and look after the interests of the great and noble industry which they follow, but each one plods along in his own quiet way, plowing, planting, reaping, while all are at the mercy of the minority, which acts in combinations.

Let us illustrate briefly: The railroad owners get together in convention and fix a rate to charge per mile for the transportation of grain, meat and other farm products, and the farmer has to pay it.

The manufacturers of various goods get together in convention and fix a scale of prices at which they will put their goods upon the market, and the farmer has to pay it.

The bankers assemble in convention and fix the rate of interest they will charge for the use of money and the kind of security, and the farmer has to pay it if he wants the money, and must furnish the security.

The merchants, at least in the cotton growing section, where crops are raised on borrowed money, supplies furnished, and leins given on the coming crop, will fix their own prices on what they have to sell and dictate to the planter, who asks for credit, how many acres of cotton he must plant; and then the stock gamblers on Wall street and in Liverpool will fix the price six months before hand what they will pay for that cotton when it is picked and marketed.

This is all so, and will be so until the farmers of the country begin to come together as men in other calling have done and are doing, and organize for their own interests and for their mutual protection.

The farmers' club is the groundwork of such organization and will be instrumental in promoting the interests of farmers in various ways.

It affords farmers an opportunity to get together, to discuss matters appertaining to their calling, to learn each others methods of work, of plowing, planting, fertilizing, cultivating, harvesting, &c. Thus one gets the advantage of another's reading and practical experience.

Articles, original or selected from agricultural works or journals, may be read at the meetings, thus giving all the benefit of what might otherwise be seen only by one. It gives

the members opportunity to keep posted on the markets and the best time and place to dispose of their various products.

While it improves the farmer mentally it has also its social advantages in bringing neighbors together frequently in pleasant intercourse, and making them better acquainted with each other. It educates the young men and boys who in listening to the discussions get an idea of how business is done in public bodies, and enables them when called upon to take part in the deliberations of such bodies.

It stimulates a spirit of commendable emulation in the work of the farm, thus benefitting all.

In a co-operative sense the advantages are many, a few of which we note:

There is a growing desire among farmers to raise more stock and better stock, but every neighborhood cannot furnish a farmer who is able to invest in blooded breeds. The club by a reasonable contribution from each member could do this and own the stock purchased as club property for the benefit of all. Thus fine horses, cattle, hogs and sheep could be secured at small cost to each member.

Many farmers want to raise tobacco, at first in a small way. The construction of barns, curing, &c., is expensive. The club could build barns, at desirable points, where the tobacco could be housed and cured for a number of small planters at the same time, thus reducing the cost comparatively to all. In these barns the improved methods could be applied and cost each one interested but little.

In the purchasing of agricultural implements, fertilizers, groceries, dry goods, &c., much money could be saved to the members of the club by buying jointly what each now buys separately in small quantities, paying the retail price instead of the wholesale price which they would get the benefit of by buying in large quantities. If ten members of the club combined and bought ten plows, ten bags of guano, one barrel of sugar, one or more bolts of calico, &c., it would cost each considerably less than if each bought one-tenth of the amount. This system is now pursued by many people in the large cities.

Thus we see from these brief illustrations, which might be added to, how the farmers' clubs may be made instrumental in benefitting the members and communities in which they exist, in various ways, and in saving much money annually to the members, which is lost to them for want of co-operation.

## SOUTH CAROLINA FARMERS.

The Farmers of South Carolina seem to be much dissatisfied with the management of public affairs in that State, and calls have been issued in a number of counties for meetings to select delegates to a State Convention to be held shortly, the object being to discuss the situation and see if by a united effort they cannot correct the abuses of which they complain. The movement seems to be popular, and to be gaining strength every day, so much so as to alarm the men who heretofore shaped public policy and divided the honors and emoluments among themselves. It is predicted by the advocates of this movement that at its present rate of increase in strength its friends will soon be masters of the situation, and will hold the power to enforce their demands.

## THE PRICE ALREADY FIXED.

Cotton speculators in Liverpool and New York have decided that they will graciously allow the farmers about 8 cents per pound for their cotton next fall. And there is not one farmer in a thousand who can produce it at that price. And yet there are thousands who will mortgage their crops, mortgage their freedom, mortgage their labor, mortgage their manhood, for the glorious privilege of raising a crop, the price of which they no more control than they do the rates of interest charged by the Bank of England!

Rhode Island will vote on two amendments, to her constitution on the 7th of April, one allowing soldiers of foreign birth who served in the army during the war to vote without being property owners; the other prohibiting the sale or manufacture of intoxicating liquors in the State.

## A PLAIN WORD OF WARNING.

The PROGRESSIVE FARMER would be untrue to itself, and untrue to all concerned, if it did not warn our farmers and merchants throughout the State, against the dangers which threaten seriously to plunge them all into hopeless bankruptcy.

The merchant who has watched the effects of the mortgage system on the farmer need not be told that it is demoralizing, and generally leads to financial ruin. The merchant who has had experience in this matter, would prefer generally to credit the farmer who raises his own supplies, without a mortgage, than to sell his goods to the one who fails to do this, with a mortgage, because, as a rule, it is safer to do so. Hence we appeal to the merchants to aid us by every possible means, to discourage this reckless and dangerous system.

We appeal to our farmers with all the earnestness of which we are capable, to pause and think. Look around you and see how many farmers are hopelessly entangled in debt, by failing to raise their own bread and meat and hay and manure. Can you point to a single man in all your acquaintance who has followed this course for ten years and who has made a single dollar? If so, write to the PROGRESSIVE FARMER and give his name. On the other hand, do you not know scores of them who have been ruined by raising all cotton or all tobacco, and depended on buying these things? Think of it. Get together, organize into clubs and discuss these matters, and look into the situation. Get together, talk together and act together, and strive to avoid the abyss of ruin which is your inevitable doom, if you persist in this course. We know this is plain talk and that many will not heed it, but we intend to "cry aloud and spare not" with the hope that it may arrest the serious attention of at least a few of our friends.

## WHERE IS OUR INDEPENDENCE?

About fifty-one per cent. of all the people of this country are engaged in agricultural pursuits, and they pay about eighty per cent. of all the taxes. Of the total domestic exports of the country for 1885, amounting to \$726,682,946, seventy-three per cent. or \$530,172,966 was the product of the agriculturists, and yet all these millions of people—this vast wealth-producing power is neither fostered nor protected by combination or co-operation. The developments of progressive civilization seem to require that all other interests of any magnitude should have the fostering care and guardianship of co-operation. Capital in all its varied forms and uses, first entrenched itself within this citadel of its power. Miners, printers, mechanics, operatives in factories, employees on railroads, merchants, tradesmen, physicians, lawyers, railroads, transportation lines, speculators and laborers in all departments of industry are organizing for the protection and advancement of their respective interests, and why should not the farmers organize? They and the products of their labor are the prey of greedy scheming and speculation, and will always be until they shall employ the same powerful agent of defense—co-operation.

## THE INDUSTRIAL DEPRESSION.

From the first annual report of Commissioner Carroll D. Wright, of the labor bureau to the Secretary of the Interior, we gather the following interesting facts:

Out of the total number of industrial establishments, such as manufacturing, mines, &c., in the country in 1885 about five per cent. were absolutely idle, and five per cent. were idle part of the time, or about 7 1/2 per cent. were idle during the year, throwing out of employment 998,839, or in round figures 1,000,000 of operatives.

The wages of these unemployed people would have amounted to in prosperous years the sum of \$300,000,000 and their earnings to their employers would have amounted to \$7,990,716,000.

The mechanical industries of the country are carried on by steam and water power, representing in round numbers 3,400,000 horse power, each horse power equalling the muscular power of 6 men, the water and steam power thus representing the labor of 21,000,000 men. These industries are now carried on by 4,000,000 of persons. To do the work now perform-

ed by these 4,000,000 of persons with the aid of machinery, and upon our railroads would require a number of persons representing a population of 227,500,000 of people.

The present cost of operating the railroads of the country with steam power is about \$500,000,000 a year, but to carry on the same amount of work with men and horses would cost \$11,308,500,000. These figures give some idea of what steam does. According to the census of 1880 the total number of people in the United States engaged in agriculture was 7,670,493, of these 812,829 or 10.58 per cent. were of foreign birth. The total number in the country employed in manufactures—mechanical and mining industries—was 3,837,112 of which 1,224,787, or 31.9 per cent. were of foreign birth, showing that the tendency of immigrants is to the industrial centres, the mechanical pursuits, and not to the country or to the farm. To this is attributed in a great measure the over supply of mechanical labor and the consequent reduction in the price of labor.

The Commissioner thinks, however, from the investigations of the agents of the bureau within the past six months, the depression which began early in 1882 is gradually wearing away, and prosperity slowly but safely returning.

The poultry product of the United States for 1883 amounted to \$560,000,000. In addition to this 12,000,000 of eggs were imported from China, and large numbers from European countries. This would make our poultry product bring \$150,000,000 more than the cotton crop. Raising chickens and eggs is apparently a small business, but see what it amounts to in the aggregate.

A remarkable atmospherical phenomenon is reported from the city of Oskosh, Wisconsin, on the 19th inst. The sky was clear with the exception of a few floating clouds, when suddenly at 3 p. m., the place was wrapped in the darkness of midnight. Great consternation was caused among the inhabitants, those in the streets rushing into cellars, as if to escape some coming calamity. The darkness lasted about ten minutes and seemingly passed from west to east.

Ed. Johnson, a notorious desperado, in Nebraska, killed his employer and was pursued by a mob of 300 men. He took refuge in a barn, where abundantly supplied with arms and ammunition he barricaded himself and bade them defiance. In attempts to capture him two of the mob were shot dead and several wounded. They finally set fire to the barn after an eighteen hours' siege and opened fire upon him, and when the barn was burned down his body was found in a pile of oats, riddled with bullets, and both legs and arms burnt off.

A number of cotton harvesters have been invented and patented, but so far none that have given entire satisfaction when put to the practical test in the field. The latest invention of this kind brought to public notice is one by Mr. C. T. Bugg, which was exhibited in the New York Cotton Exchange recently, and the exhibitions of its workings were so satisfactory that it is pronounced by some cotton planters who saw it work, just the thing they have been looking for. The inventor has organized a company to build the machines and says he will introduce them in the cotton fields of the South the coming fall.

It would be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to our farmers if they understood or would take the trouble to pack their apples in marketable shape. We can and do raise as fine apples as can possibly be grown in the Northern States, and yet we find Northern apples selling here in this fine fruit section, and at better prices than our native apples, and simply for the reason that they are plucked from the trees carefully, are washed, assorted and graded carefully, and are packed carefully.

We like to note the progress of our home industries. Last week a car load of wagons manufactured at Hickory in this State, was shipped to Danville, Va., which is somewhat reversing the old order of things, as most of the wagons, buggies, &c., shipped to Southern towns and cities come from the North and West, which are now mainly dependent for the best timber they use on Southern forests. We hope to see the time when Southern manufacturers will supply not only the wagons, carriages, buggies, &c., but all the farm machinery, implements, &c., used in the South, as well as the numerous other articles of daily use now imported from other sections.